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Archives du Museum d'Histoire Naturelle. Tome 1me et 2me Livraison. Presented by the Governors.

Archæologia Cambrensis. No. I. Presented by the Editor.

A Gold Fibula. Presented by the Marquis of Kildare.

An ancient Cannon Ball, made of Sandstone, found in an Excavation made near the Castle of Dalkey. Presented by Frederick W. Porter, Esq.

A Heel-ball Rubbing from a brass Plate in the Cathedral of Amiens. Also, *a Rubbing from an Inscription on an Oak Rood-screen in the old Church of Llanfair, near Kneighton.* Presented by Dr. Todd.

An ancient Wooden Tray, found at Hilltown, Co. Westmeath. By Arthur Webb, Esq.

November 29, 1845. (Stated Meeting.)

GEORGE PETRIE, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

William Wordsworth, Esq., was elected an Honorary Member of the Academy.

It was resolved, on the recommendation of Council,

“That the sum of £50 be placed at the disposal of the Committee of Antiquities, for the purchase of articles of antiquarian interest for the Museum.”

The following letter, from Edward J. Cooper, Esq., on the Zodiacal Light, was read :

Markree Castle, 13th Nov. 1845.

“SIR,—The phenomenon of the Zodiacal Light being but very rarely visible in these countries, I am induced to trouble you with this communication, to inform you of its appearance here this month. At ten minutes past four o'clock, A.M., on the 4th instant, a strong light, convex in its upper limits, was observed by me, and one of my assistants, at my observatory, in the horizon east by south. It was very similar

to that of low *Auroræ Boreales*. We could not believe that it was crepuscular, as it was too early, nor that it was of the nature of what are commonly called the "Northern Lights." We watched it for a considerable time, during which it appeared to vary in brilliancy. However, it branched out to *Regulus*, and also towards *Coma Berenicens*, the edge of low fog, towards the south, being also illuminated. It faded first in the branch towards *Coma Berenicens*; and, lastly, under the advancing twilight, in that towards *Regulus*. *Gamma Virginis* was in the axis, near the horizon, and *Kappa Crateris* on the azimuthal limits towards the south. From east, through the north to west, stars were visible to the horizon, which but very seldom is the case here. A considerable number of shooting stars were streaming about this morning. Having little doubt that the branch of elliptic light which extended towards *Regulus* was the zodiacal light, although I had never before seen it in the morning (and, indeed, in Italy alone in the evenings of the months of March and April), I resolved to look out again for it. The weather was unpropitious until the morning of the 10th, when it was seen from the observatory, at ten minutes before four o'clock, and for some time afterwards, by my assistant, Mr. Magrath. I saw it from my house at a few minutes before five o'clock, when it shewed, with very tolerable definition, the elliptic outline which I have so often remarked in Italy in the spring evenings. There was no trace, on this occasion, of a branch of light towards *Coma Berenicens*. In less than a quarter of an hour it was almost entirely lost behind a rising fog, which left a sharp white frost upon the ground. The remarkable features of the phenomena we witnessed seem to be these, viz., 1st, that on the morning of the 4th there was a second branch of light, and also an illuminated edge to the fog in horizon; neither of which were visible on the morning of the 10th, nor have I ever previously observed any thing similar to accompany the evening exhibitions of

zodiacal light. 2ndly, That there was on that morning a flux and reflux of the light. I cannot attempt to account for the former; but I suspect that the latter appearance arose from a rising and sinking of the imperceptible terrestrial vapour.

“EDWARD J. COOPER.

“*To the Secretary of
The Royal Irish Academy, &c. &c.*”

Mr. William Hogan read the following notice of **the storm** of Sunday, 6th July, 1845 :

“I was in Leamington at the time, and, though it did not rage there, I had an opportunity of witnessing the atmospheric phenomena, as the thunder-cloud passed at a small distance to the north, and I observed its course for an hour and a half.

“To shew what its aspect was to those over whom it passed, I extract the following particulars of its history twenty miles to the north of Leamington, from the published account of Mr. Onion, of the Philosophic Institution at Birmingham. After alluding to a violent storm of the preceding Thursday, he says: ‘Birmingham has again been visited by a thunder-storm more terrible, and in its consequences more disastrous, than the former. On Saturday afternoon the thermometer varied at different times from 70° to 78°; *not a breath of air stirring*, the barometer being moderately high. About eight o’clock, P. M., a few heavy drops of rain fell, which were shortly afterwards followed by a complete deluge of water; the lightning was grand and awful in the highest degree, flash succeeding flash in rapid succession, and of that beautiful purple tint which betokens a large quantity of free electricity in the atmosphere. The thunder in the mean time rolled in nearly one continued peal; the wind, which had been varying from S. E. to E., suddenly shifted to S., and about the middle